



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

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## **RACINE UNIFIED ABANDONED KIDS DURING SPRING SEMESTER**

Wanggaard shocked RUSD did not educate kids from March until September

MADISON – State Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) expressed disgust at Racine Unified School District (RUSD) not offering online education following Governor Evers’ order to close schools in March of 2020. According to a Department of Public Instruction (DPI) report, RUSD was one of only 13 districts statewide, and by far the largest district, to not offer virtual education last spring.

“It’s almost unbelievable that Unified abandoned students this spring,” said Wanggaard. “I shouldn’t even have to call them out for this. They always claim to know better. It’s crazy. According to state assessments, Unified students are already struggling, and RUSD’s answer was to say ‘we’re done for the year.’ What ever happened to problem solving? Where has the administration been? It’s so disappointing.”

According to the DPI, RUSD did not offer any online education because of “lack of internet access” and “lack of internet devices.” Without any sense of irony, RUSD claims they were able to educate children on what they had already learned by “emailing” packets of refresher materials to students. In addition, other large urban districts with similar demographics and internet access, including Milwaukee and Kenosha were able to find a way to continue educating kids.

“Racine’s kids are now behind their peers all across the state,” said Wanggaard. “The RUSD School Board hasn’t announced how they plan to get them caught up on what they’ve missed. What’s the plan?”

Wanggaard noted that according to Racine teachers he has spoken to, RUSD’s leadership has been inconsistent and unfocused in its efforts to train both students and teachers in virtual learning. This has led to inconsistent and unfocused learning in their schools.

“Listen, I get that the pandemic and school closure caught people off guard,” said Wanggaard. “But 406 school districts were able to figure this out, including every urban district. Racine’s kids can’t be put further behind because of lack of leadership. We need better.”

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